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FM AMEMBASSY KOLONIA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2353  
INFO RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY KOROR 0348  
RUEHJM/AMEMBASSY MAJURO 0460  
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RUEHC/DEPT OF INTERIOR WASHINGTON DC  
RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI  
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 0013  
RUEHKN/AMEMBASSY KOLONIA 2721

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SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA SEEKING COORDINATION IN THE FSM ON ITS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT

REF: 8/19/09 E-MAIL WEMHOENER-CUITE TO NEVILLE

11. (U) This message contains an Action Request, please see paragraph 5.

12. (SBU) On August 7, Australian Ambassador Susan Cox met with Ambassador Hughes to discuss a planned visit by senior Australian assistance officials to the FSM. Cox stated the visit's focus would be on Australia's Pacific Partnerships for Development in respect to the FSM. Australia recognizes the U.S. role in the FSM, particularly the special relationship with The Compact of Free Association.

13. (U) Australian DCM Janet Whitaker confirmed that the delegation is tentatively scheduled to visit Pohnpei during the second week of September. She added that as of August 18 the final composition of the delegation was not yet determined. The Australian Embassy will remain in touch with the U.S. Embassy, however, because Australia is seeking to closely coordinate any future assistance to the FSM with the U.S. Thus one primary focus for the visitors will be to gauge coordination capacity with the U.S. Embassy and other U.S. representatives working in the FSM.

14. (SBU) Cox shared documentation on describing the basis of Australia proposed Pacific Partnerships for Development (ref). She added that Australia is reviewing its assistance programs in the whole of the Pacific, not just with the Compact States. The planned visits are the next step in some of the coordination and review efforts that Australia has already begun and publicly discussed during the August Pacific Island Forum meeting held Cairns, Australia. Cox concluded that their embassy in Washington D.C. should have already contacted EAP/ANP on this plan, but that it is important to hear first hand reports in each of the Pacific Island nations.

Action Request  
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15. (SBU) Per Cox's comments, Post anticipates receiving a senior Australian assistance delegation during the week of September 7. Post request's Department's guidance in preparing for the visit and guidance on responses to each of the points raised in the referenced fax.

HUGHESMK